

Speaker Registration/Testimony

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Meeting Date 02-22-2017
Council/PH Committee PublicHearing
Agenda Item Bill 22
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

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TO: The Honorable City Council Members
The Honorable John Mizuno

RE: Bill 22 & HB122

My husband and I would like to thank you, the students who are assisting you, and others who support and are actively involved in positively and proactively engaging in compassionately caring for our feral cat population by humanely capturing, Spay/Neutering and Releasing them. We would also like to thank you for proposing to allocate funds for this cause.

Written
Testimony

We are also doing the same. We Spay/Neuter/Release colonies of cats, with the help of Poi Dog and Popoki's, "The Big Fix" program, and feed the colonies daily. We have been paying for these procedures with our own money, so the subsidies you provide are a big help on our budget. We don't mind buying bags and bags of cat food. The reward of seeing the colonies sustain in numbers (not increase) while each cat thrives and begins to look healthier are rewards in itself. To us, the only nuisance animal is a hungry one. Like humans, hungry animals will rummage through trash cans, garbage bins, etc., to eat whatever wastes they can find. We monitor the areas where our colonies are. If people with empathy leave paper plates and containers to feed the cats, we pick up the litter. The cats, in themselves, know when it's feeding time. They are nocturnal and they hide until we call them out. From time to time, we'll drive through the area and one will never think there are so many feral cats around because they come out at the set time they know we'll be coming by to feed them. As a result of the Spay/Neuter/Release, we've noticed that the bins around the areas we care for aren't being rummaged through and scattered at any given time. Also, the colonies are not multiplying. The cats look healthier...are healthier due to being fed and not reproducing. We also know which ones are spay/neutered because of the "V" clips on their ears. If we see any without the "V" on their ears, we bring them to be spayed or neutered. Unfortunately, we notice that a lot

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of the new ones that come to eat are tame, as if someone just left them to fend for themselves...seemingly former pets. This is really sad. For this reason, perhaps when people buy animals at pet shops, you could add a surcharge to further subsidize animals whose owners abandon them. Euthanizing animals are not the answer. Funds will be spent on collecting and euthanizing only one or just a few, while the population of ferals continue to increase, due to breeding and abandonment of pets... and the cycle will begin again and again. Spending on extermination is a quick one time fix that won't solve the problem, and it's inhumane. Caring for homeless animals and those that are feral, with harsher penalties for those abandoning animals via fines, are the answer. Spay/Neuter/Release is the viable answer in itself.

Thank you, again, for your compassion & consideration towards feral cats and animals, and for your bill to subsidize the Spay/Neuter/Release program. Please also consider this letter in support of Bill 22 & HB122. If we can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact us.

Respectfully,

Thomas and Lizbeth Franco
lgfranco622@gmail.com

Testimony
Attachment
Accept
Terms and
Agreement

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